



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PREVENTION SERVICES

Hearing/Vision Screening Updates for the 2021-2022 School Year

Hearing Screening

- The ADHS State Sensory Screening Program hearing rules will resume as stated by [9 A.A.C 13, Article 1](#) for the 2021-2022 school year. Initial hearing screenings must occur among the required populations within 45 school days. The temporary program waiver will no longer be in place effective 7/1/21.
- All screenings must be conducted by ADHS Certified Hearing Screeners. The temporary order issued by Dr. Cara Christ last year waiving program requirements to renew a license/certification due to COVID-19 ended on May 31, 2021. Due to the hardship of COVID-19, the Sensory Screening Program is allowing additional time for hearing screeners to renew their hearing certification. Hearing screeners will have until December 31, 2021 to renew their hearing certification in accordance with [R9-13-108](#) which includes the following:
 - Must complete 2 hearing screening continuing education units each year.
 - Complete 4 hours of classroom instruction from an independent trainer.
 - Pass the written examination with a score of 80% or better.
 - Demonstrate competency in the use of audiological equipment.
- A list of independent trainers can be found on our [website](#).
- ADHS Sensory Screening Program is finalizing a Request For Grant Application to procure a statewide training vendor to coordinate and implement the training of trainers and screeners. This contract will make training more accessible statewide to all schools.

Vision Screening

- The ADHS Sensory Screening Program does **NOT** have official rules for vision screening. This means that there are **NO** requirements currently in place in regards to training, screening, or reporting of data to ADHS. Even though there are no requirements in place the ADHS Sensory Screening Program encourages all schools and agencies to continue performing annual vision screening as outlined by their school or agency.
- The following table was put together through the recommendations set by the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Association of Certified Orthoptists (AACO), American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and the National Center for Children's

Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH) to clarify acceptable vision screening types among children.

<u>ANNUALLY</u>	<u>BIANNUALLY</u>
Children ages 9 and younger (Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade)	Children ages 10 and older (5th grade and up)
Distance Visual Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none">● HOTV Letters● LEA Symbols● Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age)	Distance Visual Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none">● HOTV Letters● LEA Symbols● Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age)
Stereoacuity <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Random Dot “E”● Butterfly Test	Near Vision Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none">● HOTV Letters● LEA Symbols
Color Deficiency (only conducted once) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pseudoisochromatic plates	

Instrument-based screening (autorefractors or photoscreeners) should only be used to screen the following population(s):

- Children between the ages of 1 and 6 years of age OR,
- Children over the age of 6 who cannot participate in chart-based screenings

The only acceptable autorefractors/photoscreeners are:

- Welch Allyn® Spot™ Vision Screener
- Plusoptix S12C Vision Screener
- Retinomax (Right Mfg. Co Ltd.- Tokyo, Japan)
- SureSight Vision Screener (SureSight) (Welch-Allyn, Inc.- Skaneateles Falls, NY) (Software version 2.25)

COVID-19 Considerations

- It is important that when screenings are occurring that Schools follow the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) guidance. This includes strategies on how to safely open for in-person instructions and implementing preventative measures.

The Sensory Screening Program will provide continuous updates throughout the year based on programmatic updates, local trends, and statewide data. All questions and inquiries should be emailed to sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov.